



Dkt. 62801 CCD

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Olivo G. SIVILOTTI et al.

Serial No.: 09/633,584

Filed : August 7, 2000

For : BELT-COOLING AND GUIDING MEANS FOR CONTINUOUS
BELT CASTING OF METAL STRIP

Group Art Unit 1725

Examiner K. Kerns

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FIRST AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

1185 Ave. of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036
February 25, 2003

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 4, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, 15, 17, 18, 35 and 45 as follows:

01 1. (Amended) A belt cooling and guiding apparatus for a casting belt of a twin belt caster provided with a pair of rotatably supported endless casting belts, a casting mold formed between moving casting surfaces of confronting generally planar sections of the belts, said sections having reverse surfaces opposite said casting surfaces, the casting mold having a molten metal entrance at one end and a solidified sheet article outlet at an opposite end, and a casting injector for introduction of molten metal into the casting mold at the entrance of the casting mold; the cooling and guiding apparatus comprising at least one elongated nozzle having a support surface facing a reverse surface of said casting belt, a continuous slot in the support surface arranged transversely substantially completely across said casting